

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter

June 17, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of HIV/AIDS and partner activities to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

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NEWS

USAID Official Delivers Testimony on Capitol Hill

Dr. E. Anne Peterson, USAID Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, delivered testimony on Uganda's successful battle against HIV/AIDS before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on African Affairs, on May 19. To read the full testimony, go to:

http://www.usaid.gov/press/spe_test/testimony/2003/ty030519.html.

South Africa's "Takalani Sesame" Receives Two Awards

USAID celebrated the awards won by South Africa's "Takalani Sesame" television program at the World Media Festival, a global competition held in Germany last month. USAID was instrumental in bringing the Sesame Street educational children's series to South Africa in the late 1990s. "Takalani Sesame" created the world's first HIV-positive Muppet that premiered in South Africa in late 2002. "Alam Simsim," another USAID-supported program from Egypt, received the Silver Prize for Outstanding Children's Programming in the educational category. For details, see:

http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/News/pressreleases.html.

Pact and USAID Announce HIV/AIDS Grant Winners

On May 27, Pact and USAID announced the Community REACH winners for its latest grants competition, which will award \$750,000 to programs that reduce HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. The grant winners are organizations with the potential to reach people living with HIV/AIDS, traditional leaders, caregivers, health care providers, and families affected by HIV/AIDS. For details about the seven Community REACH grant winners, go to: <http://www.pactworld.org/reach/pr.htm>.

USAID Partners Launch Antiretroviral Therapy Program in Mombasa, Kenya

A new USAID-supported antiretroviral therapy program in Mombasa, Kenya, distributed its first drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS on May 23. USAID is providing technical and financial assistance to the first public-sector comprehensive care and antiretroviral therapy program in Kenya, through Family Health International's IMPACT project, the Population Council's Horizons program, and Management Sciences for Health's Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus project. For more information, visit:

<http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/Publications/ART+in+Mombasa.htm>.

Better AIDS Messages Needed in Namibia

Many young Namibians do not understand the terms used in HIV/AIDS prevention strategies, according to a recent USAID-supported study of 100 youth, ages 15 to 25. Common HIV/AIDS prevention terms such as "abstinence" and "faithfulness" were frequently misunderstood. The findings are important as

USAID/Namibia develops an HIV/AIDS prevention strategy for Namibian youth. For more details, visit: <http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/05-27.shtml>.

Family Health International to Establish More VCT Centers in Nigeria

On a recent visit to Nigeria, Peter Lampthey, president of Family Health International's Institute for HIV/AIDS, announced Family Health International will establish 20 more voluntary counseling and testing centers in Nigeria. To read more, go to: <http://www.nigeria-aids.org/msgRead.cfm?ID=1464>.

2003 'Staying Alive' HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign Starts in July

The YouthNet program of Family Health International, in partnership with MTV, has launched the 2003 "Staying Alive" campaign. "Staying Alive" informs young people about HIV, promotes safe lifestyle choices, provides information about local organizations, and mobilizes youth to overcome stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS. For the 2003 campaign, MTV will produce a 60-minute special celebrating the life of humanitarian and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela to premiere in July 2003. Learn more about the 2003 "Staying Alive" campaign and YouthNet's involvement at: <http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/ProgramsAreas/MediaInterventions/MTVStayingAlive.htm>.

'Local Voices' Ready to Sound Off in Kenya and Nigeria

The "Local Voices" program, a USAID-funded project managed by Internews Network, completed the first step in engaging Nigerian and Kenyan media professionals in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Nigeria's top media owners and executives came together on May 30 at the "Local Voices" inaugural event in Abuja, Nigeria, in an effort to find synergy between demands of the news business and the need to improve coverage of public health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS. "Local Voices Kenya" kicked off on May 27. For more information on the program, visit: http://www.internews.org/local_voices/media_executives.html.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing Succeeds Like Success

USAID chronicles successes big and small in a series of stories from its HIV/AIDS partners around the world. These narratives demonstrate innovative strategies and real-life accomplishments in prevention, behavior-change communication, living with AIDS, and caring for orphans and other affected children. From a cautionary yet popular West African romance film to community activism to integration of HIV testing with traditional demographic and health surveys, stories abound of triumphs in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Find them at: http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/News/index.html.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop Set for August 2003 in Uganda

USAID's MEASURE Evaluation Project will hold its fourth annual regional workshop, "Monitoring and Evaluation of Population, Health, and Nutrition Programs within a Decentralized System," August 4–21, 2003, at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The English language course will emphasize district-level applications to mid-level health and population officers, program managers, and other professionals involved with the implementation of programs in Africa. For details, visit: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/training/workshops/workshops.html>.

RECENT EVENTS

Study Assesses Zimbabwe's Readiness for Antiretroviral Therapy Program

The DELIVER project presented the results of a recent assessment of Zimbabwe's readiness to implement antiretroviral therapy on May 22 in Washington, DC. The assessment found the initiation and expansion of antiretroviral therapy programs require attention to patient care and product logistics to ensure antiretrovirals are correctly prescribed, dispensed, and taken as directed. The full assessment report is available at: http://deliver.jsi.com/2002/archives/hivaids/zimbabwe_arv/index.cfm.

Global Health Conference Sessions Available Online

Sessions from the Global Health Council's 2003 Annual Conference, including Webcasts, transcripts, and related resources are accessible at the Kaiser Family Foundation Web site. Go to: www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/ghc/may03.

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Report Focuses on Male Circumcision and HIV Prevention

A report on the meeting, "Male Circumcision: Current Epidemiological and Field Evidence," is now available on USAID's Website. The meeting focused on the policy and programmatic implications of epidemiological, biological, and cultural acceptability studies of male circumcision. Sponsored by USAID, AIDSMARK, and JHPIEGO, the conference took place on September 18, 2002. For the full report, see: http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/Publications/index.html.

POLICY Project Produces Resources on HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination

POLICY's Siyam'kela project, based in South Africa, has released three publications: "Siyam'kela: An Overview"; "Siyam'kela: HIV/AIDS-Related Stigma—A Literature Review"; and "Siyam'kela: Preliminary Indicators Workshop Report." To download the publications and learn more about the project, see: <http://www.policyproject.com/siyamkela.cfm>.

Global AIDSLink Highlights HIV Vaccine Research

The June/July issue of "Global AIDSLink," a publication of the Global Health Council, examines the ongoing search for a preventative HIV vaccine and the myriad issues facing researchers, scientists, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and people living with the disease. Read more at: <http://www.globalhealth.org/publications/>.

Latest Horizons Newsletter Focuses on HIV/AIDS Workplace Programs

The June 2003 "Horizons Report," the biannual newsletter of the Horizons Program, highlights findings from operations research studies conducted in workplaces in South Africa, Vietnam, and Thailand. Study themes include how to mobilize management to support workplace programs and develop nondiscriminatory policies, and the effectiveness of peer education in the workplace. Read more at: [http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/newsletter/horizons\(6\).html](http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/newsletter/horizons(6).html).

USAID Evaluation Project Releases Special Reports, Working Papers

USAID's MEASURE Evaluation Project announces the publication of the following special reports and working papers:

- "AIDS in Africa during the Nineties: Young People in Kenya" examines existing information about adolescent sex in Kenya and discusses sources of potential difficulties in interpreting those data. The report also examines evidence of the success of HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.
- "AIDS in Africa during the Nineties: Ghana" focuses on trends in the spread of HIV infection and in AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and sexual behavior among men and women in Ghana. View these two reports at: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/special/special.html>.

- “Assessment of a Capture-Recapture Method for Estimating the Size of the Female Sex Worker Population in Butawayo,” concludes that estimating the size of populations at risk for transmitting HIV is critical for AIDS prevention.
- “Comparative Analysis of Program Effort for Family Planning, Maternal Health and HIV/AIDS, 30 Countries” compares results from three studies to determine how closely the programs overlap in extent and type of effort. View these two working papers at:
<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/workingpapers/workingpapers.html>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Family Health International Launches Redesigned Web Site

The site, completely redesigned and restructured, emphasizes Family Health International's core interests—HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, and reproductive health, including family planning. The site highlights Family Health International's special commitment to improving the health and welfare of youth. View the new Web site at: <http://www.fhi.org>.

MEASURE DHS+ Announces HIV/AIDS Indicator Database

The HIV/AIDS Survey Indicators Database is a comprehensive information source. The indicators measure the success of HIV/AIDS programs and are derived from sample surveys and the “UNAIDS National AIDS Programmes: A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluation.” Designed to be global in scope, the database is available at: <http://www.measuredhs.com/hivdata/start.cfm>.

The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID'S Office of HIV/AIDS. To subscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=SUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>. To unsubscribe click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=UNSUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>, or go to www.synergyaids.com/newsletter.asp. For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: listserv@list.s-3.com with "subscribe subscribe" or "unsubscribe subscribe" in the body of the e-mail.

USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to enews@s-3.com by the 2nd of the month.